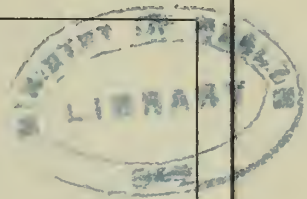


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GUISBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



. REPORT .
for the Year 1947
of the Medical Officer of Health
W. H. BUTCHER, V.R.D., M.A.,
D.M., D.P.H., BARRISTER-AT-LAW.
SURGEON COMMANDER R.N.V.R.(RET)



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
GUISBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit herewith my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1947. As you are aware I commenced duties on the 1st July, 1947, so that a great part of what follows refers to work done and facts collected by my predecessor, Dr. Gibson, but for any shortcomings in the Report, the responsibility is mine.

SECTION I. Vital Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area in Acres : 18,924.

Estimate of resident population mid-1947 : 8,399.

Number of inhabited houses according to rate books : 2,641.

Rateable Value : £32,852.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate : £132 : 7s. : 4d.

In the market town of Guisborough there are a steelworks and a shirt factory. Considerable industrial development is taking place in the northern part of the District in connection with Imperial Chemical Industries. The rest of the area is agricultural and moor lands.

The number of births registered as occurring in the district during the year is 201 corresponding to a birth-rate of 24.0 per thousand of the population. The deaths of residents were 94 giving a death-rate of 11.2. Six infants under the age of one year died giving an infant mortality rate of 30 per thousand births compared to the rate for England and Wales of some 41. Of these, five were infants who died in the first fourteen days of life (neo-natal deaths). Since the factors causing still-births are of the same order as those causing neo-natal deaths the number of still-births, 3, should be added to the 5 neo-natal deaths to get an approximate picture of the loss of lives, or potential lives, before the age of fourteen days. Recently a good deal of research has been undertaken into the causes of these deaths ; many of these factors remain obscure or unknown. Approximately 47% of the neo-natal deaths are due to disturbances prior to birth causing prematurity ; 24% are due to disturbances during birth, i.e. birth injuries and 14% to bodily malformations, while infections after birth and other conditions are responsible for the rest. Since prematurity is frequently a contributory factor in deaths at birth due to injury, or after birth due to infections, no material improvement in neo-natal mortality can occur without a reduction in premature births. The causation of prematurity is largely obscure for in some two/fifths to one/half of the cases the cause is unknown ; in the remainder toxæmia, multiple pregnancies and maternal bleeding before the infant's birth are the causes, and of these toxæmia is the most important. This is twice as common among the poorer than among the well-to-do, and it has some relation to food eaten, not in pregnancy alone, but during the life of the individual.

A death-rate of 11.2 reminds us that the population is gradually ageing ; life with a postponement of senescence or at least of senility has been prolonged. Unless the aged are prepared and moreover allowed to continue their period of employed activity, the younger ages will have to support an increasing number of the inactive.

Vital Statistics.

	MALE	FEMALE
1. Typhoid & Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	1
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Resp. System	2	—
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
9. Influenza	1	—
10. Measles	—	—
11. Ac. Polio-mylitis & Polio-encephalitis	—	—
12. Ac. inf. Encephalitis	—	—
13. Cancer of mouth and gullet	—	—
uterus	—	1
14. Cancer of stomach & duodenum	—	—
15. Cancer of breast	—	—
16. Cancer of all other sites	3	2
17. Diabetes	1	—
18. Intracranial Vascular lesions	4	1
19. Heart diseases	19	16
20. Other diseases of Circ. System	4	1
21. Bronchitis	4	4
22. Pneumonia	1	—
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	3
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	1
26. Appendicitis	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	3	2
28. Nephritis	3	—
29. Puerp. and post. abort. sepsis.	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—
31. Premature birth	—	1
32. Congen. malform., birth injuries and infections	—	—
33. Suicide	—	—
34. Road traffic accidents	1	—
35. Other violent causes	1	—
36. All other causes	6	3
ALL CAUSES	58	36

TABLE II

Live Births

			MALE	FEMALE
Total	....	....	102	99
Legitimate	....	....	101	97
Illegitimate	....	....	1	2

Still Births

			MALE	FEMALE
Total	....	....	2	1
Legitimate	....	....	2	1
Illegitimate	....	....	—	—

Deaths of Infants

(under 1 year of age)

			MALE	FEMALE
Total	....	....	3	3
Legitimate	....	....	3	3
Illegitimate	....	....	—	—

SECTION II. Infectious Diseases :

Diphtheria. No case of diphtheria was notified. The number of children immunized during the year was 110 in the 0—4 age group and 9 in the 5—14 years age group. Since the number of children in the former age group is 800 and in the latter 1,190, the number immunized in the first group although not large is a marked improvement over the numbers immunized in the latter group which is insignificant and can have little effect on the prevalence of diphtheria. Since the soil remains suitable the absence of diphtheria is due to other factors such as the absence of the seed. The Ministry of Health aims at an immunized percentage of children amounting to 75. I do not believe that exhortations by means of posters or advertisements or formal lectures are worth the cost and the effort. The useful method is by personal appeal informally given as the occasion arises by the Health Visitor herself, or by the doctor.

Scarlet Fever. There were 21 cases in all notified during 1947, a very slight increase over the previous year. Half of the cases were confined to Guisborough itself, the remaining half being more or less evenly distributed throughout the surrounding villages. Scarlet Fever of late years has become a mild disease, with few complications and of little danger to life. The last death from this cause in the district occurred in 1928.

Measles. Only 36 cases of measles were notified during this year showing a considerable reduction over 1946 when the figure realised was 11.1 cases per thousand population.

Tuberculosis. There were two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year as compared with 4 cases in 1946. I visit each notified case myself to inspect the house and investigate whether the source of infection is discoverable and to

stress the importance of contacts being kept under the supervision of the Chest Physician. While the decline in the disease that has taken place in the last half century cannot be assigned to any particular anti-tuberculosis measure, but has accompanied the general rise in the social well-being of the people, it is a reasonable step that the consumptive be furnished with his or her own bedroom. Unfortunately, at present, owing to shortage of beds there is usually considerable delay in admitting cases to sanatoria. Investigation of the source of infection is a difficult matter because the factors involved in the infection and in the fall of the individual's resistance vary from person to person. For instance, it may be an old infection or re-infection. While generally speaking all of us are exposed to infection and become infected before we reach maturity, only a small minority develop the disease of pulmonary tuberculosis. Why this should happen is at present unknown. Meanwhile it is reasonable to see that the opportunity for near or massive infection is reduced by the provision of satisfactory housing and in early diagnosis of the disease. Two cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis, involving the glands of the neck, were notified in children.

TABLE III.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1947
(other than Tuberculosis)

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever	21	1	—	—	1	2	8	8	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	36	1	2	3	3	6	21	—	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION III. Milk Supplies :

Eight samples of ungraded milk were submitted by your Sanitary Inspector for bacteriological examination as to cleanliness, only four of which can be regarded as satisfactory. One sample of pasteurised milk submitted to bacteriological examination was unsatisfactory.

There are some 76 producers of undesignated milk in the district. For milk sampling to give a useful picture of the cleanliness or otherwise of a particular producer at least one sample a month or twelve a year should be taken. The odd sample taken during the course of two or three years is not at all informative since it is liable so much to chance results. Systematic sampling, however, is of a certain value, particularly an educative one for the producer and, therefore, it is recommended that it be undertaken. Your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. Thompson, inspected cowsheds on 57 occasions.

SECTION IV. Water Supplies.

The town of Guisborough and the village of Dunsdale are supplied by the Westworth Reservoir of the Gisborough Water Company. An enquiry on behalf of the Minister of Health was held on the 26th August, 1947, regarding the acquisition by the Council of this Supply. As a result of my inspections of the gathering ground, of the Wiley Cat Stream and of the Plant, I formed the opinion that it was in the interests of the public health that the supply should be taken over by the Council, and I gave evidence, therefore, to that effect. Subsequently, the Minister sanctioned the Council's application.

The following examinations, both bacteriological and chemical were made of the water during the year.

TABLE IV.

Reports on Bacteriological Examination of Water Samples from Domestic Taps on Gisborough Water Company's Supply.

<i>Date of Sample</i>		<i>Colonies from 1 c.c. on Agar in 3 days at 22°C.</i>	<i>Colonies from 1 c.c. on Agar in 2 days at 37°C.</i>	<i>Coliform Organisms in 100 c.c.</i>	<i>Strept.</i>	<i>B. Enter- itidis Sporogenes.</i>
1947						
January 6th	....	24	8	—	—	—
January 6th	....	0	0	Present in 50	—	—
March 12th	....	0	0	— [ml	—	—
March 18th	....	70	9	—	—	—
May 7th		30	1	—	—	—
July 8th	....	5,000	Numerous	—	—	—
August 8th	....	140	1	—	—	—
September 9th	....	7	1	—	—	—
September 15th	....	—	30	—	—	—
September 23rd	....	—	300	—	—	—
October 8th	....	—	40	—	—	—
October 8th	....	—	30	—	—	—
October 10th	....	—	50	—	—	—
November 17th	....	4	2	—	—	—
December 17th	....	0	1	—	—	—

TABLE V.

**Summary of Results of Chemical Analysis of Water Samples from Domestic
Taps on the Gisborough Water Company's Supply.**

	1.	2.	3.	4.
<i>Date of Sample</i>	<i>.... March 12th</i>	<i>August 13th</i>	<i>Nov. 18th.</i>	<i>Dec. 17th</i>
Turbidity, parts per million				
Silica Scale	.... Less than 5	25	17	9
Reaction pH.	.... 6.2	7.1	7.0	7.0
Total Solids dried at 180°C.	.... 80	95	100	130
Free Carbonic Acid	.... 9	3	Trace	Trace
Chlorine in Chlorides	.... 17	16	16	21
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	.... 10	25	13	15
Hardness—Total	.... 30	40	50	60
Hardness—Temporary	.... 20	25	13	15
Nitrogen in Nitrates	.... 1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nitrogen in Nitrites	.... 0.01	0.01	Absent	Absent
Free Ammonia	.... 0.010	0.064	0.20	0.19
Albuminoid Ammonia	.... 0.016	0.094	0.092	0.060
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours				
at 27°C.	.... 0.81	4.30	1.2	0.60
Metals—Iron	.... 0.09	3.3	1.24	0.80
Manganese	.... 0.10	0.11	0.08	0.21
Lead	.... Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Free Chlorine, parts per million	Absent	0.2	—	0.40

TABLE VI.

**Report on the Bacteriological Examination of Water Sample from Standpipe on
NEWTON WATER SUPPLY**

<i>Date of Sample</i>	<i>Colonies from 1 c.c. on Agar in 3 days at 22°C.</i>	<i>Colonies from 1 c.c. on Agar in 2 days at 37°C.</i>	<i>Coliform Organisms in 100 c.c.</i>	<i>Strept.</i>
January 16th	.... 24	8	—	—

Examination regarding the presence of Free Chlorine is made weekly and has invariably been within satisfactory limits, except on one occasion. During the dry months of the summer and autumn the water was frequently discoloured owing to the presence of organic matter from the moorland gathering grounds ; its taste was flat and unpalatable. Among other defects in the system the Clarifying Plant is unsatisfactory.

The Tees Valley Water Board supplies Lazenby, and portions of Upleatham are supplied by the Cleveland Water Company, while Newton under Roseberry is supplied by springs beneath the hill of the latter name. The Village of Hutton is supplied by a small private Reservoir on the moors.

Swimming Pool. Two samples of water were submitted to bacteriological examination from a swimming pool in the District ; both were entirely satisfactory.

SECTION V. Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :

Of the articles sent by the Inspectors of the North Riding County Council to the County Analysts one sample of milk purchased at Guisborough was found to contain 2.80% of milk fat showing thereby a deficiency in milk fat.

Ice-cream. Of the nine samples of ice-cream submitted for laboratory examination six reached a satisfactory standard and three did not. In each case the producer was advised regarding improvement in his technique.

The Icecream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947, came into operation on the 1st May, 1947, except for reservations regarding equipment. The aim of the Regulations is to reduce the likelihood of this agreeable refreshment being a vehicle in the spread of gastro-intestinal diseases. Apart altogether from ice-cream, cleanliness in all premises where food is handled or sold is necessary as is shown by the number of food poisoning outbreaks reported during the summer of 1947 in England and Wales. The Food & Drugs Act, 1938, Section 13, specifies the hygienic requirements in all premises where food is sold or manufactured for sale. Proper methods of manufacture or handling are even more important than satisfactory premises, i.e. the frequent washing of hands, the scrubbing of nails of food handlers, and the adequate washing of crockery and cutlery.

Bakehouses. There are 6 in the District, regarding which 42 inspections were made.

SECTION VI. Housing :

Of the sixty-six Council houses commenced last year, six have been completed and occupied.

The Street and Sewer Contract for the second scheme of thirty houses was commenced during the month of December.

Of the fifty houses being built by the National Housing Association at Lazenby, thirty-seven have been completed and occupied.

A certain amount of housing has been undertaken during the year by private builders. Of these thirty houses were commenced during the year and twelve were completed and occupied.

The disused Army Camp at Dunsdale is still occupied by squatters. Work has been carried out during the year to make the premises more suitable for habitation.

TABLE VII

HOUSING STATISTICS

New Houses completed in 1947 :

(a) Council	....	....	....	....	....	6
(b) Other	....	....	....	....	....	49

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	....	....	....	....	249
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	....	....	249
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1932	....	....	....	....	80
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	....	....	100
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....	....	....	....	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	....	....	198

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :*

(1) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	....	....	....	....	198
(2) Number of dwelling houses where work is in progress but not yet complete	....	....	....	....	Nil
(3) Number of notices in course of preparation (not yet served)	....	....	....	....	Nil
(4) Number of notices outstanding	....	....	....	....	Nil

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	....	....	....	....	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :					
(a) By owners	....	....	....	....	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	....	....	....	....	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	....	....	....	51
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :					
(a) By owners	....	....	....	....	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	....	....	....	....	Nil

Table VII.—Housing Statistics—continued.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	....	....	....	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	....	....	....	Nil
D. Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 :					
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	....	....	....	....	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	....	....	....	....	Nil

I have omitted the table dealing with overcrowding since I have no complete information regarding the number of dwellings which are overcrowded.

SECTION VII. Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

I give below a Table of the sanitary work done during the year by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. A. Thompson.

TABLE VIII

Nuisance Inspections.

Total No. of Inspections made for Nuisances only 302 (Not including Housing Inspections)					
Nuisances found	....	302	Total needing abatement	318	
Nuisances in hand, end of previous year	....	16	Abated during year	....	289
			Outstanding at end of year		29
Notices served, informal	....	276	Complied with	247	
Notices served, Statutory		Nil	Complied with	Nil	
Total Number of summonses or other legal proceedings	....			Nil	

Regulated Building, Trades, etc.	No. in District	No. on Register	Total No. of inspections made	General Conditions	Legal Proceedings (if any)
Common Lodging Houses	1	1	12	Satisfactory	—
Houses let in lodgings	.... Nil	—	—	—	—
Knackers' Yards	.... Nil	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans & Sheds	.... 4	(These arrive during the summer months, and regular inspections made).			
Offensive Trades	.... Nil	—	—	—	—

Drainage and Sewerage.

Particulars of any sewer extensions during the year	....	None
Details of any portion of district still requiring :—		
(a) Sewering—Having regard to the industrial development likely to/take place in the Parish of Wilton the Council have appointed Consulting Engineers to go into this question.		
(b) Improvement of defective sewers	....	Nil
No. of houses not connected to sewers—Only houses in isolated positions and outlying hamlets.		

Sewage Disposal Works.

Particulars of any extensions made during the year	....	....	Nil
Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works?—Consulting Engineers will report.			

Closet Accommodation.

No. of Privies with open middens	Nil	No. of Pail or Tub Closets	645
No. of Privies with covered middens	Nil	No. of Water Closets	1662
Waste Water Closets	Nil		
No. of Privies reconstructed during year—			
(a) as W.C's	.... Nil	(b) Other	.... Nil
No. of Closets, other than Privies, reconstructed during year as W.C's			9
No. of ADDITIONAL Closets provided for old property in year as—			
(a) W.C's	.... Nil	(b) Other	.... Nil
No. of Closets constructed in year for new houses—			
(a) W.C's	.... 92	(b) Other	.... Nil
Any special action being taken by Council to secure conversion of privies, waste-water closets, and pails to W.C. system.			
If so, what?—Grant towards cost of conversion, but conversion schemes were not permissible during the year.			

Meat Inspection.

Total number of private slaughterhouses licensed by authority	....	3
No. unsatisfactory either as regards structure, position, or in other respects		Nil	
No. of times each slaughterhouse inspected	....	2
Total inspections	....	6
No. of seizures of unsound food (Voluntary surrender)	....	15
Total weight 169 lbs.	No. of prosecutions Nil

Smoke Abatement.

No. of smoke observations each of 30 minutes duration taken during year	Nil
No. of above showing excessive emission of black smoke	.... Nil
No. of cautions issued	.... 2
No. of statutory notices issued	Nil
No. of Prosecutions	.... Nil

Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 and 13 (3)

No. of visits paid under the above Act during year	....	....	56
Unsatisfactory conditions found	—	Remedied	—

Byelaws and Regulations in force in District.

BUILDING BYELAWS—10/3/39.

BYELAWS IN RESPECT TO SWIMMING BATHS AND BATHING POOLS—18/10/46.

BYELAWS IN RESPECT TO NEW STREETS AND BUILDINGS—25/4/25.

BYELAWS IN RESPECT TO CLEANSING OF FOOTPATHS AND PAVEMENTS, NUISANCES,
COMMON LODGING HOUSES, SLAUGHTER HOUSES—24/7/1893.

Mortuaries.

For accidents—ADMIRAL CHALONER HOSPITAL, GUISBOROUGH.

SECTION VIII : Factories Act, 1937 :

The following figures have been returned to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, regarding factories in the district.

TABLE IX.**1. Inspections** for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

PREMISES	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosec'ted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	50	Nil	Nil
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	25	58	Nil	Nil
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	4	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	39	112	Nil	—

Section VIII.—Table—IX.—continued.

2. Cases in which defects were found.

		Number of cases in which defects were found			
		Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	....	1	1	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	....	2	2	—	—
TOTAL	....	3	3	—	—

With the advent of Regional Hospital Boards, Medical Officers of Health as such have no concern with Isolation Hospitals nor are they in official contact with the patients once they have entered the portals of these hospitals. I am of the opinion that the Medical Officer of Health should have official access to the patients in these hospitals so that he can keep under observation any cases of doubtful diagnosis or epidemiological interest. After all, epidemiology, i.e. the seeking of the origin of diseases, of the factors that cause their waxing and waning and of the means of their control is particularly his concern.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

BROTON,

30th June, 1948.

W. H. BUTCHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

